

## ECONOMIC NEWS

# Labour Market in July: Quebec and Ontario Bounce Back

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Statistics Canada reported that Quebec added 97,600 jobs in July, bringing the total to 576,000 since employment began to pick up again in May.
- ▶ The increased employment is due exclusively to part-time work.
- ▶ Quebec's unemployment rate fell again, dropping from 10.7% in June to 9.5% in July.
- ▶ In July, Ontario posted a gain of 150,700, for a total of 528,600 jobs since the province's labour market began to recover.
- ▶ Here, too, the unemployment rate dropped below 12% to settle at 11.3% compared with 12.2% in June.
- ▶ Almost all of Ontario's gains occurred in part-time work.

### COMMENTS

Positive results were expected in July in the wake of Quebec's and Ontario's economies gradually lifting their lockdowns. Quebec's labour market has been slowly recovering since May. To date, 70.2% of the jobs lost in March and April have returned, yet there are 244,500 jobs still missing compared to February's levels. Ontario's return to normal is being spread out over a longer period of time, with job gains only starting to appear in June. As a result, total employment bounced back 45.7% from the hemorrhaging that occurred in March, April and May. This means that there are still 627,900 workers missing compared to the levels set prior to the lockdown measures. Quebec's and Ontario's private sectors remain the hardest hit.

### IMPLICATIONS

Statistics Canada's paints a rosier picture for July. As economic activity continues to gain momentum, businesses are rehiring. The quickest gains to be made initially were those made by a

### TABLE

**Effective job losses in July compared with February 2020**

IN THOUSANDS	QUEBEC	ONTARIO
Total jobs	-244.5	-627.9
Public-sector jobs	-6.0	-98.3
Private-sector jobs	-220.4	-454.7
Self-employment	-18.1	-74.7
Full-time jobs	-207.0	-547.0
Part-time jobs	-37.5	-80.9
Goods	-64.3	-107.1
Services	-180.2	-520.8

Note: The sum is not always equal to the total due to roundings.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

growing number of businesses restarting and capable of applying the physical distancing rules, especially in Quebec. With Ontario having introduced phase 3 of the lockdown at the end of July, we should see major job gains in August.

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NOTE TO READERS: The letters k, M and B are used in texts and tables to refer to thousands, millions and billions respectively.

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